

PREPARATION FOR STUDYING CHAUCER

1. Familiarise yourself with Chaucer's life. Although this is not tested on the AOs you need to be aware of when Chaucer was writing and what was happening in the world at this time.
2. Read as many background texts as possible. Remember that you need to be aware of the ideas of different critics so that you can form your own interpretations of the text.
3. Answer the following questions:
 - a) How many pilgrims are mentioned in the Prologue?
 - b) Why were the tales told?
 - c) What was Chaucer's original plan for the number of tales to be told?
 - d) Why did this plan never come to fruition?
4. The chart below will indicate which pilgrim(s) are assigned to you for close study. **You need to produce a detailed account on Chaucer's characterisation of this pilgrim and be prepared to present this, and have it photocopied.**

In your account, focus on: use of irony eg "he was a good man" could mean the opposite, the narrator's attitude towards the pilgrim, physical appearance as a reflection of character, occupation, past, attitude, ideas, beliefs. Look at Chaucer's tone and any indirect or direct criticism. Diction also creates tone so look at imagery, similes, choice of words and their sounds. Is society or a section of society being judged or is it just that particular pilgrim?

PILGRIM	PAGE REF	ACCOUNT
The Knight	52-3	
The Squire	53-4	
The Yeoman	54	
The Prioress	54-6	
The Monk	56-7	
The Friar	57-9	
The Merchant	59-60	
The Clerk	60	
The Sergeant of Law	60-1	
The Franklin	61-2	
The Guildsmen	62-3	
The Cook	63	
The Shipman	63-4	
The Dr of Physic	64	
The Wife of Bath	65-6	
The Parson	66-7	
The Plowman	67-8	
The Miller	68	
The Manciple	68-9	
The Reeve	69-70	
The Summoner	70-2	
The Pardoner	72-4	
The Host	74-8	
Chaucer	74-8	